Five terrorists killed in Pishin operation: CTD

Ten officials injured in hours-long gun battle; rockets, hand grenades and other arms seized

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: In a fierce gun battle that lasted several hours, at least five suspects, including one wanted in several terrorism cases, were killed during an intelligence-based operation led by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of police in Balochistan's Pishin district, officials said on Monday.

At least 10 CTD officials also sustained injuries during the exchange of fire, they said.

The CTD personnel seized a huge quantity of arms, including rocket launchers, hand grenades and SMGs, and ammunition from their possession.

The Balochistan police spokesperson said that a CTD Quetta team raided the house of a declared absconder Sanaullah Agha, who was wanted to police in terrorism cases, and his brothers to arrest them, but they started firing on the personnel.

Despite repeated warnings by the police to them to surrender, they fired at CTD officials using modern weapons and an exchange of fire ensued. During the gun battle, CTD officials Khadim Hussain, Manzoor Ahmed, Gul Muhammad, Khair Jan, Asadullah, Shamsheer Ali, Ehsanullah, Aimal and Moaz Ahmed sustained injuries.

Also, the suspects were wounded in the encounter, but they managed to flee under the cover of fire.

Acting on the information, a reinforcement of personnel, headed by senior police officers, chased the suspects. Led by CTD DIG Aitzaz Ahmed Goraya, the operation culminated in the killing of Sanaullah Agha and his accomplices, the spokesman said.

The clearance operation was completed by 4.30pm, the spokesperson added.

Residents of Pishin district, particularly those living in Kali Karbala, expressed satisfaction over the successful operation that they said would put an end to fear and panic in the area.

PRESIDENT Asif Ali Zardari and First Lady Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari meet UAE Minister of Justice Abdullah bin Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi.—White Star

President okays seven bills

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rights bill was also opposed by the JUI-F.

About the Daanish schools bill, the PPP was of the opinion that education was a provincial subject and the centre should not lay a network of Daanish schools across the country.

The PML-N addressed the PPP concern before tabling the bill in the joint session.

After signing the seven bills, President Zardari, accompanied by a high-level delegation, left for the UAE on an official visit from Jan 26 to Jan 29.

During the visit, the president would hold high-level meetings with the UAE's leadership to review the full spectrum of bilateral ties, especially in the domains of trade and economic partnership, defence and security, and people-to-people ties.

The discussions would also focus on regional and international issues of mutual interest, the Foreign Office spokesperson said.

"The visit of the President, subsequent to the recent visit of the President of the UAE to Pakistan, reflects the deep brotherly ties between the two nations and reaffirms commitment to transforming the strong friendship between Pakistan and the UAE into a mutually rewarding partnership," he added.

Jaffar Express attacked again; tracks damaged

By Ali Jan Mangi

DERA MURAD JAMALI: Four bogies of the Quetta-bound Jaffar Express coming from Peshawar were derailed in a blast on railway tracks between Sultankot and Jacobabad on late Monday evening.

No causality was reported in the blast.

Railway officials in Sultankot confirmed the blast on the tracks linking Sindh with Balochistan. Four bogies were derailed due to the blast, which damaged the track, a senior railway official told *Dawn*.

The officials said that repair work was initiated immediately after security clearance. Relief train also reached the site to help restore the traffic on the main line.

Employees offer voluntary arrests during protests

By Muhammad Akbar Notezai

QUETTA: Workers of the Balochistan Employees Grand Alliance (BEGA) staged protest rallies in Quetta and Khuzdar on Monday in support of their demands, including the grant of the disparity reduction allowance, with 11 employees voluntarily offering their arrests during the demonstrations.

In Quetta, the BEGA employees took out a rally from Bacha Khan Chowk to City Police Station via Liaquat Bazaar. Upon reaching the police station, the protesters staged a sit-in and raised slogans against the government over the non-acceptance of their demands.

Police officials said 11 employees participating in the protest voluntarily presented themselves for arrest.

In Khuzdar, government employees responded to the alliance's call by holding a large-scale protest in support of their demands. The demonstration was led by alliance's district president Aslam Notani, APCA Kalat Division president Manzoor Naushad, General Secretary Aslam Zahri, Paramedical Staff Association president Rashid Ahmed Ghulamani and Rashida Zahri.

A large number of employees from various government departments participated in the protest, chanting slogans against the government and expressing concern over the delay in accepting their demands.

After the demonstration, the employees peacefully proceeded to City Police Station, where they voluntarily offered their arrests.

Fresh westerly wave

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Wednesday, with highs of 21-23 degrees Celsius and lows of 9-11 C.

The past 24 hours saw cold and dry weather in most parts of the country, with rain and snowfall in northeastern and western Balochistan and upper KP. The lowest minimum temperature recorded Monday was minus 12 degrees Celsius in Leh, followed by minus 8 C in Kalam and Ziarat.

Landslide alert

Meanwhile, NDMA's National Emergencies Operation Center issued landslide alerts across multiple regions, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK and Balochistan.

A high-level landslide alert has been issued for KP, GB and AJK, while a medium-level landslide alert remains in place for several districts of Balochistan. These alerts are based on forecasted intense precipitation, snowfall and prevailing geological conditions in hilly and mountainous areas.

The NEOC noted that districts such as Dir, Swat, Kalam, Kaghan, Chitral, Kohistan, Shangla, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Murree, Astore, Bunji, Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza and surrounding regions are characterised by steep slopes and fragile terrain. These factors make them highly vulnerable to landslides, mudslides, snow slides and rockfalls.

Quetta, Duki disasters

Separately, heavy rains, thunderstorms, and snowfall lashed northern and central Balochistan on Monday, killing one person and injuring six others as house roofs collapsed in Quetta and Duki.

The second severe weather spell, intensified by cold Siberian winds, began on Sunday night and disrupted daily life, paralysing traffic on national highways where snow froze and blocked inter-provincial roads.

In Quetta's Sabzal Road area, a roof caved in due to heavy snow, killing one person and injuring two. Four others were injured when a roof collapsed in Duki town; all victims were shifted to local hospitals. Power supplies remained suspended in the outskirts of Quetta despite utility announcements that there would be no load shedding, while consumers faced low gas pressure in sub-zero temperatures.

The NHA deployed staff for snow-clearing and salt-sprinkling operations late into the night to keep major routes open. According to the PMD , Ziarat received 9 inches of snow, while Kalat recorded 41 millimetres of rain.

PDMA Director General Jahanzeb Khan urged the public to adopt precautionary measures and avoid unnecessary travel. Relief operations were launched in Qila Abdullah, where heavy snowfall initially cut off the Dubandi tehsil.

Balochistan CM Sarfraz Bugti declared a severe weather emergency, stating that the entire provincial machinery was engaged in relief operations.

He warned that protests and road blockades during this period endangered human lives by disrupting rescue activities.

"Political differences can be addressed later, but people's lives cannot wait," Mr Bugti said. "At this moment, saving lives is the foremost priority, and everyone must stand with the public instead of creating obstacles."

Aamir Yasin in Rawalpindi also contributed to this report

SBP springs surprise

Continued from Page 1

the current level to ensure price stability and support sustainable economic growth," the SBP said.

The MPC highlighted several key developments since its last meeting.

Firstly, real GDP growth was provisionally reported at 3.7pc year-on-year for the first quarter of fiscal year (Q1FY26), mainly led by the industry and agriculture sectors.

Secondly, both consumer and business confidence improved, while inflation expectations eased.

Third, SBP's foreign exchange (FX) reserves surpassed the end-December target, reaching $16.1 billion as of Jan 16, largely due to ongoing interbank foreign exchange purchases. Fourth, FBR revenue growth decelerated to 7.3pc in December, falling short of the target.

"The growth outlook has substantially improved from the earlier assessment and real GDP growth is now projected in the range of 3.75-4.75pc in FY26," the SBP said, adding that economic momentum was likely to strengthen further in FY27, supported by earlier reductions in the policy rate and continued macroeconomic stability.

Real sector

Real GDP grew by 3.7pc year-on-year in Q1FY26, compared to 1.6pc in the corresponding period last year, indicating a notable pickup in economic activity. Recent high-frequency indicators suggested this momentum continued into the second quarter.

LSM posted a growth of 8pc year-on-year in October and 10.4pc in November 2025, raising its cumulative growth to 6pc during July-November FY26. In agriculture, recent sowing data and satellite imagery pointed to encouraging prospects for the wheat crop.

The external current account recorded a deficit of $244 million in December 2025, bringing the cumulative deficit to $1.2 billion in H1FY26, mainly due to a widening trade deficit driven by strong import growth and a decline in exports.

"Continued uptick in workers' remittances and supportive global commodity prices are assessed to contain the current account deficit in the range of 0 to 1pc of GDP in FY26," the SBP said.

Based on this outlook and the realisation of planned official inflows, SBP's FX reserves are expected to exceed $18bn by June 2026 and rise further in FY27, approaching the benchmark of three months of import cover. The SBP cautioned, however, that this outlook remains vulnerable to risks stemming from global trade fragmentation and geopolitical uncertainty.

Fiscal sector

FBR tax revenues grew by 9.5pc in H1FY26, compared to 26pc in the same period last year, falling short of the target by Rs329bn. "This indicates that a significant acceleration in growth would be required in H2FY26 to achieve the FBR revenue target," the SBP said.

Interest payments remained significantly lower than last year, which may help achieve the full-year fiscal deficit target. However, the central bank noted that meeting the annual primary surplus target could prove challenging.

The SBP announced a reduction in the average Cash Reserve Requirement for banks from 6pc to 5pc, a move expected to further boost private sector credit.

Inflation

Headline inflation eased to 5.6pc year-on-year in December, down from 6.1pc in November, mainly due to lower food prices, despite a sharp rise in wheat and allied product prices.

Dacoits loot Rs9.4m from Quetta bank

QUETTA: Armed dacoits looted millions of rupees in cash from the Sariab road branch of a private bank at gunpoint and injured a security guard who resisted, on Monday.

According to police, three armed men — two of whom were wearing women's clothing and had their faces covered — arrived at the private bank branch near Burma Hotel on Sariab Road on a motorbike and entered the premises.

The private security guard tried to stop them from entering, during which one of the armed men opened fire and seriously injured him. The dacoits then took the bank staff hostage at gunpoint, looted all the cash available at the counter, and escaped on the motorcycle.

Bank officials said the dacoits stole Rs9.4 million from the counter and informed the police immediately after the incident. —Saleem Shahid

Opposition chalks out plans for Feb 8 protest

Continued from Page 1

to freedom of expression and a fair trial.

The participants warned of a looming humanitarian crisis in Khyber Agency's Tirah valley, saying millions could be forced to migrate in harsh weather.

They said any deviation from resolutions passed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and decisions of the national jirga would be against provincial autonomy.

They further criticised the government's decision to join US President Donald Trump's 'Board of Peace' without taking parliament and the public into confidence, questioning Pakistan's participation when Palestinians were excluded from the forum.

Later, a TTAP delegation led by Mr Achakzai visited the residence of former PTI leader Dr Shireen Mazari to express solidarity with her over the arrest and conviction of her daughter and son-in-law, Ms Mazari and Mr Chattha.

JUI-F rally

Meanwhile, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has announced that his party would stage a rally in Rawalpindi on Feb 8 to protest against the alleged rigging in the last general elections.

According to JUI-F Rawalpindi district spokesperson Hafiz Ziaullah, the party chief will address the public gathering.

The party spokesperson said the Feb 8 elections were "tantamount to the killing of the public mandate" and an "insult" to the nation's vote, and "would not be accepted under any circumstances".

He said the government formed as a result of the 2024 polls would be "rejected through public power", and the struggle would continue to protect the original principles of democracy.

According to the spokesperson, preparations for the rally have been formally started, and instructions have been issued to all tehsils, workers and officials of the Rawalpindi district to ensure full participation.

"A large number of people, workers and people belonging to different schools of thought will participate in the rally," he said.

The JUI-F Rawalpindi chapter initially appealed to the public to reach Dera Taji Khokhar on Feb 8 to raise their voices against the "fake" elections and the "illegitimate" government, and to stand with the JUI-F for the restoration of democracy.

The spokesperson said under the initial plan, the public gathering would be held at Dera Taji Khokhar near the old airport, but the venue was likely to change.

Responding to a question about seeking permission from the district administration, he said a meeting of the JUI-F general council would be held on Jan 31, after which the venue would be decided and an application submitted to the district administration by Feb 1.

Hafiz Ziaullah said preparations had already begun and all office-bearers had been informed about the decision to launch a protest against the "rigged" 2024 general elections.

He added that tehsil chapters had been asked to form committees for public mobilisation, and the general council would task these committees with bringing the maximum number of people to the meeting.

Meanwhile, the district administration has imposed Section 144 in the district since December and extending it on a weekly basis. Under Section 144, public gatherings are not permitted. The current one has been imposed from Jan 23 till Feb 6.

A senior district administration official told *Dawn* that if an application was received from any party, it would be forwarded to the Punjab government after a report from the District Intelligence Committee.

Notice for Back-Up Long-Term Bidding of Coal Suppliers

With reference to the backup long term bidding advertisement published on **17th January 2026,** Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy (Private) Limited (HSR), operating a 2 x 660 MW coal-fired power station located in Chak No. 76/5-R, Qadirabad, Sahiwal, Sahiwal City, Punjab, Pakistan, invites applications from reputable coal traders with proven experience in importing coal via sea shipments. Interested applicants must not be listed on the FBR blacklist. All coal payments will be made in Pakistani Rupees.

The Long-Term Bidding document containing detailed conditions, submission procedures, evaluation criteria, and other relevant information, is available for interested bidders. To obtain the Long-Term Bidding document, please send an email expressing your interest to hnpc_fsd@chnpc.net. A non-refundable fee of PKR **50,000** will be charged for the bidding documents.

Revised Deadline for Submission of Bids: 15:00 Hrs on 30th January 2026

Person to contact Tel: +92 3168224671.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MCC Resources Development Company (Pvt.) Limited (MRDL), Saindak, intends to conduct an open auction through sealed bids on an "As Is, Where Is" basis at EPZ Saindak (Saindak Copper-Gold Project), District Chagai, Balochistan. Interested firms/bidders are invited to participate in the sealed bid auction for the following materials:

Sr#	Description	Quantity	Grade in %	Remarks
01	Iron & Steel Scrap	4000 Tons	Old and used scrap /equipment/parts	
02	Plastic scrap drums	1000 Pcs		NOC from the concerned EPA Required
03	Rubber waste tires	300 Pcs	Different sizes	NOC from the concerned EPA required

Terms and Conditions:

1. All participating firms/bidders must be duly registered with the Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments of Pakistan.
2. Bid Submission & Opening:
   - 2.1 Last Date & Time for Bid Submission: 10th February 2026, by 3:00 PM (PST).
   - 2.2 Bid Opening Date & Time:10th February 2026, by 3:00 PM (PST).
   - 2.3 Venue: MRDL, Saindak Project, Chagai. (Bid opening will be conducted through an online meeting due to the prevailing security situation in Chagai.)
3. Eligibility & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):
   - 3.1 Bidders must be hold valid NTN & STRN certificates.
   - 3.2 A refundable EMD of PKR 100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Only) per lot must be submitted in the form of a deposit in favor of "MCC Resources Development Company (Pvt) Ltd" along with the bid. EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be refunded within 10 working days.
4. Key Commercial Terms:
   - 4.1 Payment Currency: US Dollars (USD).
   - 4.2 Payment Terms: Successful bidder shall pay 25% of the bid amount as advance within 2 working days of award. The balance 75% must be paid within 7 working days thereafter.
   - 4.3 Removal Period: Buyer must remove all material within 60 working days from the date of full payment. All lifting equipment, labor, and logistics are the buyer's responsibility.
   - 4.4 The bidders whose bid is accepted is liable to pay the all Government applicable taxes according to custom/ EPZ rules subject to import the materials from EPZ zone to Tariff area.
5. General Conditions:
   - 5.1 Quantities are estimates. MRDL reserves the right to vary the final delivered quantity by up to ±20%.
   - 5.2 Bids are to be submitted in the prescribed format (available on request).
   - 5.3 The decision of the competent authority of MRDL shall be final and binding.
6. The auction shall be conducted via a sealed bid procedure. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope by the specified deadline, and there will be no open auction or progressive bidding process.
7. Bidding documents shall be delivered to Saindak project by delivery, however, bid opening will be conducted through online meetings due to security situation in Chagai Balochistan.
8. Contact for Information & Bid Documents:

MRDL – Sales & Supply Department.
Address: Saindak Copper-Gold Project, District Chagai, Balochistan.
Phone: 0825-412021
Email: chaghino1234@gmail.com